

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 129312
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DRAFTED BY ISA/NATO STD:LTC MMCCARTHY/PM/ISP:TEMATHISON/JAN
APPROVED BY PM/ISP:DCGOMPERT
DAMA-ZA - COL. C. MCNAIR, JR.
DDR7E - DR. PERRY
OSD(ISA) MR. CLINARD
EUR/RPM - MR. FROEBE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILL, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: US-FRG TANK HARMONIZATION

REF: USNATO 04124 DTG 261344ZMAY

1. NEWS REPORT MAY HAVE REFERRED TO AGREEMENT QUOTED
BELOW: BEGIN TEXT

DURING JOINT GERMAN/AMERICAN DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING
LEOPARD 2 WEIGHT, IT HAS BECOME CLEAR TO BOTH SIDES WHERE
DISAGREEMENT EXISTS. THE US ARMY AT NO TIME FELT THAT
GERMANY ENGAGED IN DECEPTIVE PRACTICES; AND IT IS REGRETTED
THAT THIS IMPRESSION DEVELOPED.

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IN THE INTEREST OF HARMONIZATION, THE UNITED STATES
AND GERMANY AGREE NOT TO PURSUE THE WEIGHT OF THE US TESTED
LEOPARD 2 PROTOTYPES BECAUSE EMPHASIS IS NOW ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF COMPONENTS FOR BOTH THE LEOPARD 2 AND
XM1 BATTLE TANKS. IT IS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT A MODIFIED
LEOPARD 2 TANK COULD BE PRODUCED WITHIN A DESIGN GOAL OF

59.6 US TONS. THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ARE COMMITTED TO MAXIMUM STANDARDIZATION BETWEEN THEIR MAIN BATTLE TANKS AND ARE MOVING FORWARD IN UNISON TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL.

BOTH THE LEOPARD 2 AND XM1 ARE OUTSTANDING TANKS RESPONSIVE TO BOTH THEIR RESPECTIVE ARMIES' REQUIREMENTS AND NATO CAPABILITIES WILL BE IMPROVED WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THESE TANKS.

SIGNED: DR. TRIENES, MIN DIR,
ABTEILUNGSLEITER-RUESTUNGSTECHNIK, BMVG

LTG H. COOKSEY, DEP CHIEF OF STAFF
FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION,
HQ DA, DATED 19 MAY 1977 END TEXT.

2. THIS AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH NOT OF THE MAGNITUDE OF IMPORTANCE ALLUDED TO IN THE NEWS REPORT WILL HELP TO ENSURE CONTINUED PROGRESS IN OUR JOINT TANK HARMONIZATION PROGRAM BY ELIMINATING DISAGREEMENT OVER LEOPARD II WEIGHTS.

3. IT IS NOTED THAT THE NEWS REPORT INDICATES THE US AND FRG ARE RETURNING TO THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT (ADDENDUM) OF AUGUST 1976. AS A POINT OF CLARIFICATION, THE 1976 ADDENDUM WAS SUBSEQUENTLY MODIFIED IN JANUARY 1977 POSTPONING A US DECISION ON THE TANK GUN UNTIL DECEMBER 30, 1977. THE AGREEMENT CITED ABOVE IN NO WAY MODIFIES UNCLASSIFIED

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THE JANUARY 1977 REVISION. CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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